information asked for is awaited from the State Government which will be placed on the Table of the House on its receipt.

Social Assistance Schemes

440. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons have begun to take the actual benefit in Maharashtra and Punjab under the various schemes under the Social Assistance Package like Old Age Pensions, Survivors Benefits etc. up till now; and

(b) the steps being taken to see that the scheme is implemented efficiently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) The number of persons who have derived benefit is at statement *(See* below).

(b) The funds under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) have been released directly to the districts for speedy implementation of the programme. An Advisory Committee at the National level and Committees at the state and district levels have been constituted to ensure the effective implementation of the NSAP. The State Governments have been instructed to ensure that application forms are widely available in local languages; verification of applications is prompt and strict; sanctions are expeditious; delays and malpractices are eliminated in disbursement. The panchayats and municipalities have been made responsible for disseminating information about NSAP and to obtain and forward applications with appropriate recommendation to the sanctioning authorities. They have also been entrusted with the task of monitoring and following up delays in sanctions and disbursements.

Statement

Progress report under NSAP

(Rs. in lakhs)

	National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)		National Family Benefit Schemes (NFBS)		National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS)	
States	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Punjab	14377	48.405	152	8.3	426	1.669

Maharashtra has reported that they have completed all the administrative arrangements and the actual disbursements would commence any time now.

Irregularities in animal husbandry departments

441. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing irregularities in the animal husbandry departments in every state particularly in the implementation of the Centrally-sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the reports received from different States in the matter;

(c) the steps taken to stop such irregularities in future; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Complaints were received about the alleged mismanagement of funds allocated to the State of Bihar only. The complaints relate to the funds allocated by Government of India during the period 1990 to March, 1994 to District Rural Development Agency, Tribal Development Agency, Special Component Plan, Social Welfare and Social Organisation for free distribution of pigs, buffaloes, cows/calves, sheep, poultry and livestock feed/fodder and medicine etc. for the welfare of the people of Chota Nagpur and Santhal Pergana in Bihar. Irregularities in postings, transfers, appointments and extension in the services of the alleged corrupt officials were also mentioned.

As the issues raised in the complaints fell within the purview of the State Government of Bihar, these complaints were referred to the Government of Bihar for proper investigation and immediate action.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Take Over of Haldia Project by Indian Oil Corporation

442. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in its Corporate Management Committee meeting held on 28.10.95 had decided to consider seriously the issue of taking over of Haldia Project of HFC;

(b) if so, the present status *vis-a-vis* the take-over; and

(c) if not, the steps the Ministry propose to expedite the process of take-over in view of the uncertainty over future revival of Haldia Project?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The Management of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) have recently had very preliminary discussions on the feasibility of utilising some of the idle facilities of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. (HFC) at Haldia. Further consideration of this proposal by the IOC Management is dependent on the requirements *vis-a-vis* availability of infrastructures and the economics thereof. At present, HFC, including its Haldia Project, stands referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Speical Provisions) Act, 1985. Any final decision on the revival of HFC, including its Haldia Project, would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR.

Export of Mangoes

443. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2791 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 1995 and state:

(a) whether any further progress has been made with regard to the export of mangoes to U.S.A.;

(b) whether Ministry of Agriculture has processed this matter with the relevant Department of U.S. Government;

(c) if so, the details of specific follow up action;